



Poultry Highlights

08/02/2013

Poultry Highlights is written by the NFU Poultry Team on a weekly basis. Please remember to quote the NFU as the source of the information if this email is forwarded on.

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Poultry Producers need Access to a Sustainable Protein Source

"Feed costs are a key element to the profitability of a poultry unit. The price of wheat and soya has rocketed and we need to reach a point where poultry producers can have access to a sustainable source of protein," said Dr Michael Lee, IBERS, at the NFU Cymru Annual Poultry conference held at the NFU Cymru headquarters in Builth.

Dr Lee said, "Research into alternative protein sources – not just for the poultry sector –but for all ruminants and aquaculture, is well underway at IBERS. Last year IBERS started a couple of projects looking at the nutritional value and improving yields of lupin, pea and bean crops in collaboration with industry and other research partners. The main aim of the projects is to give farmers more control on the sourcing of protein by providing alternative home-grown solutions.

Clare Morgan, NFU Cymru Poultry Board chair said, "The common theme from the Conference was that feed price is eroding profits in the Welsh poultry sector. We know that the wheat yield and quality were badly affected by last year's extremely wet season and the poultry sector is now suffering."

The latest NFU survey on poultry cost of production shows a considerable rise in feed costs across all the categories of poultry production. Feed costs for both cage eggs and free range eggs have risen by £60/t compared with January 2012, while broiler producers also reported an increase of £50/t in feed cost. To read more [please click here](#)

Defra provide update on Notifiable Avian Influenza in Wild Birds

Defra have issued update on Notifiable Avian Influenza in Wild Birds. Please see below an update on the case reported last month of HPAI H7 in Denmark.

"We have always considered that wild birds, particularly certain target species such as dabbling ducks, geese and swans are likely reservoirs for avian influenza viruses. Hence the wild bird surveillance programme which takes place in the EU. The presence of AI viruses in wild birds remains a possibility all year round, but bird migration patterns and bird movement associated with changes in the weather may bring such species into closer contact with the UK poultry population. In particular, free range, backyard and domestic duck or geese premises may be at greater risk of exposure. In light of the recent cold weather and flooding in the UK, some additional wild bird monitoring to look for exceptional

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patterns of bird movement which could be associated with increased exposure for the UK poultry population was undertaken”.

The results suggest a fairly typical increase in the number of over-wintering birds arriving in the UK but not a sudden large influx of birds from the east. The finding of HPAI H7 in wild birds would be considered an unusual event and despite the recent news from Denmark, we still conclude that the uncertainty around surveillance, detecting strains of virus and ascertaining the level of contact between wild birds and poultry means that maintaining our vigilance is all the more important.

It requires the efforts of expert ornithologists, Virologists, epidemiologists, veterinarians and poultry keepers to continue to work together to identify and report disease promptly.

Commission launches consultation on unfair trading practices

With the recent appointment of a Supermarket Adjudicator in the UK, the proper operation of the food supply chain remains a priority of the UK farming unions in Brussels. The European Commission last week launched a green paper and consultation on unfair commercial practices in the food and non-food supply chain.

They have noted that unfair trading practices have a detrimental effect on the EU economy as a whole, as they affect the ability of particularly small and medium-sized companies to invest and innovate. The paper makes an impact assessment of the problem and poses some questions on what should be done to tackle the issues. It is possible to read about the green paper on the Commission website [here](#).

NFU seeks turkey farmers reports on Christmas 2012

The NFU is looking for feedback on the results of the 2012 Christmas turkey season. There is a turkey forum meeting being held on the 15th of February which all NFU members with a turkey interest are more than welcome to attend. The meeting will analyse sales and seek views from producers on how the costings which the NFU provides can be adapted. The event is held here at NFU HQ - Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

The meeting will start at 10.30 am and lunch will be provided. For more information on the event please email chris.dickinson@nfu.org.uk

Spotlight on Shropshire ammonia issues

On Tuesday the 6th of February NFU poultry Advisor Chris Dickinson was part of a visit looking in to the DEFRA triennial review which analysing some of the issues the IPPC-sized pig and poultry sectors have experienced when dealing with the Environment Agency and Natural England on ammonia issues over the past few years. There has been much expansion in the poultry industry in the Shropshire area over the last few years which has led to more issues being faced

The first part of the day was at Oakland's eggs colony cage unit at Harper Adams University. The site has a colony cage unit housing 66,000 hens and a barn unit housing 7,000 hens. The three Defra officials were shown around the units by Oakland's staff and were given an insight in to the day to day running of site and the differences between the two systems.

The second part of the day was a meeting between the NFU, Shropshire council, Environment agency, Natural England and Defra officials looking in to the pressures on agriculture in North Shropshire. All participants agreed that the best way forward was for better information sharing on things such as ammonia hotspots and market information and trends.

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FWI reports - John Bowler's Eggs seeks new contract terms

John Bowler's Eggs, which offers franchises to free-range producers, has been accused of "bullying" its producers into changes to their supply contracts. A producer, who did not want to be named, sent Poultry World a consultation document received on 1 February from the company.

He was concerned about the amount of notice given and said he felt forced into accepting the changes. The document details proposals due to come into effect on 16 February, and asks for any responses to the consultation to be sent before Monday 11 February. To read more on the story please [click here](#)

EU wheat and rapeseed prospects downgraded

Reduced wheat and rapeseed harvest prospects in the UK have led analyst Informa Economics to lower their EU27 production forecasts for the 2013/14 marketing year. In its latest World Crop Report, Informa lowered its EU wheat production forecast to 138.0 million tonnes, down 1.1mt from its previous estimate in January. "The reduction from last month is due to lower wheat plantings than earlier expectations in the UK where wet weather has hampered fieldwork," it said.

Crop conditions elsewhere in the bloc, however, are faring well. "Wheat in France, Germany and Poland is in good condition," it said. "French wheat area was void of snow cover at the end of January while Germany and Poland had adequate snow cover." The revised EU wheat production figure is still well above the 2012/13 output of 131.7mt and also the 137.2mt produced in the previous marketing season. Total planted area is expected to increase to 26.0 million hectares, compared with 25.5m ha in 2012 and 25.7m ha in 2011. Total average wheat yields are pegged at 5.31 tonnes per hectare, up from 5.17t/ha in the previous year.

Best of British recipes for Pancake Day

To celebrate Pancake Day 2013 British Lion eggs have created a new collection of [pancake recipes](#), using traditional, regional ingredients from around the country, to get your Shrove Tuesday off to a flying start! [Click here](#) for the ultimate guide to pancake cooking, with step-by step instructions, a dozen fun facts and new recipes.

Whatever your favourite pancake recipe, remember to look for eggs bearing the British Lion mark, which guarantees that they have been produced to the highest standards of food safety. All Lion Quality eggs come from British hens vaccinated against salmonella, are fully traceable and have a 'best before' date on the shell as a guarantee of freshness.

You may also enjoy this video done by the happy egg company who have linked up with a team of designers to create a Wallace & Gromit-style device that makes pancakes from eggs laid just minutes before. - please [click here to view](#)

And finally...

Just thought I would bring to your attention a video. If only farmers farmers were valued in the UK as they are in this video!!!! Please see below...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcvStP5kfA>

Events

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**Wed 17th Apr
2013**

Yorkshire Egg Producers Discussion Group - Dr Maureen Bain from Glasgow University – composition and factors affecting egg shell quality - Burn Hall Hotel York, YO61 1JB
Contact Harry Atkinson – Tel 07557159341, Email - harry@thompsons-feeds.co.uk

Wed 3rd July

Yorkshire Egg Producers Discussion Group - Louis Hurdidge – Probiotic use in poultry
Burn Hall Hotel York, YO61 1JB. Contact Harry Atkinson – Tel 07557159341, email
harry@thompsons-feeds.co.uk

Wed 31st Oct

Pullet Rearing Course - Workshop looking at the best practice for Pullet Rearing - Colliton Barton Farm, Colliton Barton, Broadhembury, Devon EX14 3LJ contact Rachel Watkins Tel: 07966558386 or Rural Business School 0845 458 7485 Email: rachel.watkins@duchy.ac.uk

National Poultry Board dates

27 March
22 May
17 July
18 September
20 November
22 January 2014

Egg-celling links:

http://vla.defra.gov.uk/science/sci_salmon.htm - Salmonella guidance and control in poultry flocks information

www.nfuonline.com

www.ukturkeys.co.uk

www.greatbritishchicken.co.uk

www.farmingdelivers.co.uk/

www.britishpoultry.org.uk/

www.britishpoultry.org.uk/?page_id=2052 – BPC Careers in the Poultry Industry pages

[Link to Local Food Directory & Accreditation Scheme](#)

www.nfuonline.com/x17049.xml (Finding local food producers near you).

www.hgca.com/markets (Up dated cereal prices).

www.worldeggday.com

www.britegg.co.uk

www.theranger.co.uk British Free Range Egg Producers Association

www.fwi.co.uk/poultry

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=Detail&Completed=0&FOSID=3>

If you no longer wish to receive Poultry Highlights or if your email details have changed please forward them along with membership number to: chris.dickinson@nfu.org.uk. Any questions please contact Chris Dickinson - Poultry adviser - 024 7685 8622

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